



MEDIA RELEASE

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Neighborhoods Move In to City Hall

Greenville, SC... The City of Greenville further demonstrated its commitment to neighborhoods today with the grand opening of a new Neighborhood Resource Center on the first floor of City Hall.

The Neighborhood Resource Center is housed in the Neighborhood Services Office, which includes Greenville Cares, a police substation and the Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Designed to be self-service, the resource center will provide the more than 30 neighborhood associations in the city with office space where they can work on a computer with Internet access, design and print newsletters, send or receive a fax and check-out supplies and equipment for a neighborhood clean-up.

What began as a campaign slogan eight years ago has become a philosophy for the City of Greenville, and affects every aspect of the way it conducts business.

"Neighborhoods First" has become a mantra all over the city, and as more residents have discovered the importance of being informed and of playing an active role in the future of their neighborhoods, the number of neighborhood associations has continued to grow.

With the creation of the Neighborhood Communications Coordinator position in 1998, the City established a liaison to city neighborhoods and began working to improve the flow of communication between residents and city government. This partnership has served both parties well. Neighborhood associations have seen their issues elevated to the highest levels of city government and the City has been more proactive in planning

and has made better decisions because of the valuable input received from residents.

Chandra Dillard, who chairs City Council's Quality of Life Committee, said the Neighborhood Resource Center is just another way that the City can aid neighborhood associations in their pursuit of a higher quality of life for the residents in their communities. "Everyone in the city deserves to live in a clean, safe, desirable neighborhood, and I applaud the efforts of the associations to protect and preserve the integrity of their neighborhoods."

"We recognize that neighborhood associations are volunteer-based, and that most of them have little or no money coming in," said Leslie Fletcher, Neighborhood Services Coordinator for the City. "And because of that, we're continuously looking for new ways to support their efforts and assist them in achieving their goals."

As a result, the Neighborhood Resource Center offers everything from office equipment and supplies like a computer, printer, fax machine, copier and paper, to litter sticks, gloves, trash bags and even a digital camera. Also included in the resource center are printed materials on programs and services from various City departments.

"The thing we've most wanted to do as an association is to publish a newsletter," said Brian Porter, Vice-President of the Haynie-Sirriner Neighborhood Association. "I'm excited about being able to come to the resource center to design and print a neighborhood newsletter. As the master plan for our neighborhood goes from the planning to the implementation phase, I really want to be able to share the knowledge and information that I've gained with my fellow residents so that they can be active participants in the future of our neighborhood."

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